

Prizes

- Dordrecht Jazz Prize with Van Bommel Ensemble 1993
- Dordrecht Jazz Prize with Gravitones 1994

Biography

Drummer Wim Janssen (Heiloo, 21 September 1949) plays a role in all jazz and improvisation groups of his brother, pianist Guus. Later, others also saw his qualities, and he became a member of the Palinckx Quartet, Paul Termos' Dubbel Expres, Specs and The Gravitones. In 2001 he was one of the initiators of the As If Trio. In addition to his work as a drummer, Janssen is also a visual artist. In that capacity he is responsible for a number of CD covers and in the 80s he makes cartoons of fellow musicians for the monthly magazine Jazz Nu. He is also a teacher at the Rietveld Academy and at the Design Academy in Eindhoven. In the programme booklet of the October Meeting '91, Kees Polling describes him as 'one of those rare percussionists who can both be subservient to a pattern to be played, and know how to deal with it freely.'

1972 – 1988

Together with his brothers Guus (piano) and Paul (clarinet), Wim Janssen founds the group Gebroeders Janssen in his hometown of Heiloo. When Guus meets Paul Termos (who still plays guitar at the conservatory) a year later, he asks him to join the group. The foursome will attend a workshop with bassist Arjen Gorter in Amsterdam's Oktopus. They also share a predilection for combining (free) jazz with contemporary composed music, a symbiosis that they also see in the work of Misha Mengelberg and Theo Loevendie. In the English guitarist Peter Cusack, who came to the Netherlands in the mid-70s, they found a kindred spirit. They start playing with him, and the resounding result can be heard on the second of a series of LPs, *Groups In Front Of People* (1978). Wim also makes the cover illustration for this. When Paul Janssen leaves the group, Termos switches to clarinet, and bassist Raoul van der Weide joins the group. The foursome will also be part of the Punt Uit Orkest of trombonist Bert Koppelaar. Van der Weide and Wim Janssen also form the rhythm section of Termos' new trio. In all the following groups of his brother Guus, Wim Janssen is always behind the drums: the septet, the trio Janssen-Termos-Janssen and the Orchestra that performs the composition assignment *Dancing Series* during the NOS Meervaart Festival in 1988 (and records it in the same year for their own Geestgronden label).

1989 – 1991

During the presentation of the Boy Edgar Prize 1989 to saxophonist-clarinetist Ab Baars, his new Tentet is premiered. The two drummers in the group are John Engels and Wim Janssen. Together with trombonist Joost Buis, Wim Janssen joins the Palinckx Quartet of the brothers Jacques (guitar) and Bert (bass) Palinckx. He can be heard on the album *If p Then q Mind Yours!* (1990). In 1991, Michael Vatcher succeeded him in the band. In the same

In the same year, his brother Guus came with a new trio with bassist Ernst Glerum, which was simply called Janssen-Glerum-Janssen. During the internationally held October Meeting (on the initiative of the artistic director of the Bimhuis, Huub van Riel), the group will experience its

premiere. For the trio's debut album, *Lighter* (1995), Wim Janssen made the cover illustration.

1992 – 1993

Amsterdam-based clarinetist Augusto Forti asks Wim Janssen to be the drummer for his quartet *The Gravitones*. In the large group *Music & Drums* of fellow percussionist Martin van Duynhoven, Wim Janssen is one of the drummers alongside Fred van Duynhoven and Martin Bunjes. A year later, Janssen is again part of a percussion project, which includes a solo by Paul Koek and a duo by Janssen with John Engels. As a member of the *Van Bommel Ensemble*, Wim Janssen wins the *Dordrecht Jazz Prize 1993*, thanks to the original version that the group performs of *Thelonious Monk's Friday the 13th* (the compulsory piece for the competition).

1994

In the orchestra pit of the *Amsterdam Stadschouwburg*, Wim Janssen takes a seat in the ensemble that performs the opera *Noach* by librettist Friso Haverkamp and composer Guus Janssen. In Eric Boeren's new group *Specs*, named after the quartet's bespectacled musicians, Wim Janssen is the drummer, Wilbert de Joode is the bass player and Maartje ten Hoorn is the violinist. Later, pianist Alex Maguire takes Ten Hoorn's place, and South African percussionist Thebe Lipere joins the group. Finally, Wim Janssen (this time with *The Gravitones*) again wins the *Dordrecht Jazz Prize*.

1995

Paul Termos comes with a new group, *Dubbel Expres*, with a double line-up, in which Michael Vatcher and Wim Janssen are the two percussionists. In 1997 the ensemble's only CD is released: *Death Dance of Principles*.

2001

Together with bassist Raoul van der Weide and pianist Frank van Bommel, Janssen founds the *As If Trio*. The group focuses on instant composing, and seeks to approach recognizable styles without falling into pastiches. The name also refers to that. In 2009 the trio's first CD is released on their own *Casco Records*: *Klinkklaar*. Van der Weide is also the bass player in the band *Sound Lee!* in which the Janssen brothers and alto saxophonist Jorrit Dijkstra profess their preference for the music of Lennie Tristano and Lee Konitz. With saxophonist David Kweksilber and guitarist Wiek Hijmans as guests with this group, they perform the project *New Crosscurrents* in 2003.

2006

Guus Janssen's Hollywood OK Pieces project focuses on the music of American West Coast musicians who were looking for a bridge between jazz and contemporary composed music. The sextet that plays the interpretations of this music also consists of Peter van Bergen (clarinet), Vincent Chancey (horn), Michael Rabinowitz (bassoon) and Ernst Glerum.

Tours

Wim Janssen toured many countries around the world, including two through China, one through Canada, Russia, the Baltic states, Indonesia and all European countries

Discography

1984	Guus Janssen Septet	Horn 84. 14
1987	Guus Janssen Septet- 85-86	Horn 87. 18
1989	Guus Jansen and his orchestra- Dancing Series	SpiritGroundsGG01
1990	Palinckx Quartet –If p, THEN q... MINDYOURS!	Spark 1
1994	Nieuw Artis Orchestra- Noach, an opera offGenesis-	SpiritGroundsGG13
1995	Janssen Glerum Janssen- Lighter	SpiritGroundsGG11
1996	Collective improvisation- October Meeting/ 3	Bimhuis CD 003
	Quartets	
1996	Various AngelicA, Bologna 1996 (six pieces) with	FW 011
	Guus Janssen trio/ septet, two with ICP orchestra	

1997	Eric Boeren- Cross breeding	Bimhuis CD 005
1997	Paul Termos- Death dance of Principles	GeestGronden GG16
1998	Janssen glerum Janssen- Zwik	GeestGronden GG19
2001	Sound Lee!- Plays the music of Lee Konitz	GeestGronden GG21
2005	Hollywood Sextet- Hollywood O.K. Pieces	GeestGronden GG08
2009	Klinkklaar-Asif Trio	Casco Records 1

Secondary literature

Kees Polling, October Meeting 91 (program booklet) Group list Jazz & Improvised music 1994/95, SJIN

Interview by Frans van Leeuwen in the Jazzbulletin January 2008, number 66.

COMPILATIONS

- October Meeting 1991: 3 Quartets
 - (Bimhuis Records; 003, 1996)
 - Form: CD
 - musician: Tristan Honsinger – cello musician: Cor Fuhler – piano musician: Maarten Altena – double bass musician: Wim Janssen – drums
 - Details: One track by this quartet